

May 25, 2021

First-Class Mail and Periodicals Service Standard Changes, 2021

Comments on N2021-1

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

Dear Commissioners,

I am the President of the Denver Metro Retiree Chapter (DMRC) chartered by the American Postal workers Union (APWU). As such, my constituency has a keen interest in the viability and future of the United States Postal Service (USPS). Before retirement, I was a clerk in USPS and a member of APWU for 26 years. As such, my comments will provide a strong bias for Union Workers and Unions in general.

USPS is the largest Union employer in the USA. The craft Unions include, but are not limited to, APWU, NALC and NPMHU. Rural carriers, Postal Supervisors, Postmasters and others have Union representation at USPS. The Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 mandates a model employer regarding union activity, civil rights and affirmative action in hiring and promoting workers at USPS.

The US constitution provides for Congress to establish a Post Office at Article I, Section 8, Clause 7. Congress has done so and continues to modify the laws regarding USPS, most recently, The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) signed by President Bush on December 20, 2006. This legislation requires USPS to prefund retiree health insurance benefits 75 years into the future over a decade. A large lift for USPS costing over \$50,000,000,000.

Postal services began degrading after the passage of this act immediately. The act provided for the first time in history changes in delivery standards for first class mail that began slowing those deliveries.

Under the current Post Master General (PMG), mail service has noticeably degraded and continues to do so. My dentist, one block away, sent me a postcard that took 35 days to get to my home address. The PMG initially looked to destroy the ability of USPS to timely deliver mail-in ballots to enhance the chances of re-election for Donald J Trump. Now the agenda is clearly to privatize USPS and to get rid of all those pesky union workers.

The DMRC fully supports electric vehicles for USPS, repeal of the pre-funding mandate discussed above, and preservation of the six-day mail delivery status quo. We cannot support moving USPS retirees into the nightmare of regular Medicare coverage because it is a scheme to move the burden of health care coverage from USPS to the retirees. My housemate spends hundreds of hours each year selecting from hundreds of different Medicare supplemental and gap programs. USPS retirees select a single option from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Act (FEHBA) lists. My APWU (FEHBA option) insurance covers everything Medicare does not.

We cannot support eliminating air travel for mail and routing it on ground transportation. This will cause unreasonable delays in delivery standards. The 10-year plan that is proposed will create a death spiral. Declining service will mean declining use. If you approve this plan you must acknowledge that you are knowingly killing what is arguably our oldest Constitutional "original" public government agency and the nation's largest union employer. Do not privatize our Postal Service!

We need Postal Banking as successfully managed by USPS from 1911-1966 reinstated. Currently about 14,000,000 Americans do not and cannot get a bank account. USPS has generated lots of revenue from the issuance of Postal Money Orders and could produce more revenue with a return to Postal Banking while helping tens of millions of poor Americans.

If the PMG has issues with mail on airplanes, he needs to reinstate the thousands of ramp clerk jobs eliminated over the past decades. When I was a ramp clerk, 100% of our express mail and 80% of our priority mail went on commercial airlines and FedEx planes. Back then our delivery record for both those services was well above 97% on time.

Thank you for your consideration,

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